Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

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Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

Our Twelfth Number

With this number terminates the first year of MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY. In presenting this number to our readers, we wish to thank our many friends for the unusually liberal support accorded us in the first year of our publication, and with this support, we were able to offer a numismatic journal that is meeting with the hearty approval of Numismatists the world over.

The paid subscriptions received after our very first announcement were beyond our fondest expectations; but the first subscriptions came mostly from our more intimate friends, and there could be easily noticed the doubt entertained by some as to the continuance of the MONTHLY for any length of time.

We were well aware of the little confidence entertained for a new publication of this kind owing, undoubtedly, to the few failures in this line that occurred in recent years. But we were sure that the Numismatists would appreciate and support a numismatic magazine that was worthy of support. And just such magazine we endeavored to produce. As to our success, our immense circulation is sufficient evidence.

As a short review of our work for the past year, we may mention that we published no less than about one hundred different articles,—large and small,—including the grand Pre-Convention and Convention numbers, which contained the most complete history and discussions regarding the A. N. A. ever published. Our "Uncle George" letters, according to the remarks of our readers, are the finest things ever published in the numismatic press and, beginning in this number, "The Denford Society" notes, in which important and interesting numismatic subjects will be treated in a different and unusually interesting manner, will greatly interest every student of the science of Numismatics.

For the coming year we intend to improve the MONTHLY as opportunity may offer. We have several new ideas in mind which will tend to greatly improve the MONTHLY. One of which is to issue gorgeous Special Numbers at frequent intervals; besides, we intend to let nothing stand in our way of procuring the best and most interesting material for our readers.

We believe that even this first volume, comprising no less than two hundred and twelve pages of most interesting numismatic reading, is in itself worth its subscription price. And while this low subscription price is to continue for 1909, we promise our readers that we shall try our best,—sparing no labor nor expense,—in bringing this magazine up to a standard worthy to be classed among the publications of real worth.

Most of the subscriptions expire with this number. (A notice is enclosed with each expired subscription.) We shall be glad to hear from those who are not yet on our subscription list, as well as from our old friends whose subscriptions expire with this number; we shall be pleased to receive the necessary fifty cents, and promise in return a most excellent and interesting numismatic journal.

We again thank most heartily our numerous friends for past and anticipated favors and extend to one and all the best Compliments of the Season.

B. MAX MEHL,
Editor.

NATIONAL COINAGE AND NATIONAL ART

By A. F. SCHAUFFLER, in "The Outlook."

In view of the widespread interest that has been aroused by the devices on the new eagles and double eagles of the United States, and the criticisms, favorable and unfavorable, that have been passed upon them, it may be interesting to readers of The Outlook to discuss briefly the matter of coinage in ancient times, and especially that of Greece and Magna Graecia. No one will claim that the coinage of the United States has, up to 1906, merited the commendation of artists. R. S. Poole, in his exhaustive article in the Encyclopedia Britannica, says: "Neither the money of the Spanish and Portuguese dependencies, and of the older States, nor that of the English colonies, and of the United States, present much that is worthy of note." Without question, however, the designs of Saint-Gaudens are a marked improvement on anything we have had thus far. Yet when we come to examine the genius of the Greek world, as displayed in its coinage, we find not only a prodigal use of artistic imagination, but a wonderful mechanical perfection in many of the details of numismatic art. And not only so, but in tracing the coinage of ancient Greece chronologically we can easily see the progress of art from its rude archaic beginnings to the time when coins were struck whose beauty has never been surpassed from that day to this.

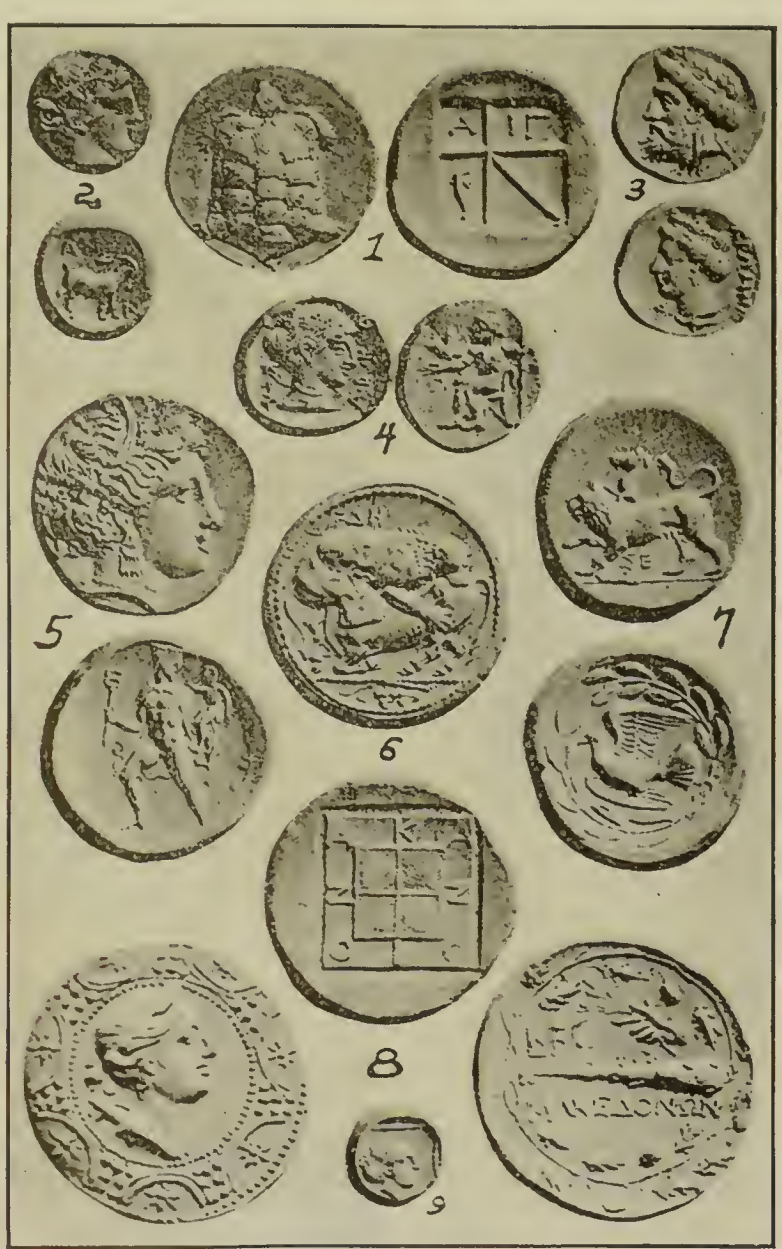
Syracusan Decadrachm, under Dionysius, B. C. 400.

Before considering, even briefly, the question of Greek coinage, it might be well to say that all the coins of the time under consideration (B. C. 700-150) were struck by hand. Dies were made, probably from hardened copper. One of these dies was fastened in stationary position after the manner of an anvil. On it a ball of silver or gold of the required weight was placed. Then the second die was superimposed, and held in place by hand. Repeated blows of a heavy hammer flattened the metal out to the desired form. As, however, there was no "collar" used, the coins are very frequently badly centered. Indeed, coins perfectly centered are not often to be found.

With regard to the source whence these ancient coins come, they are very various. Sometimes they are found in tombs, at other times they are dug up in the foundations of buildings of the olden time. Once in a while a whole pot of coins is discovered buried in the ground. A friend of the writer, owning some ground in Syria, was watching his workmen made an excavation for the foundations of a building. As the pick of one of the workmen drove into the ground the owner heard a hollow sound. Instantly suspecting what might be the cause, he carefully removed the earth, and there found an earthen pot full of tetradrachms of Alexander the Great. No doubt at some time long past the possessor of those coins had hidden them, during the stress of revolution or violence, and had fled, hoping to return when the storm was overpassed. Return he certainly did not, and there the coins lay hidden for possibly 2,000 years.

The gold octodrachm of Queen Arsinoe is a comparatively rare coin. Its price has been steadily rising for some years, owing to the scarcity of the coin. When, however, the Obelisk which stands in Central Park was raised from its bed in Alexandria, about fifty of these octodrachms were found. Needless to say, the price of the coin at once fell to reasonable proportions. It is now rising again.

The earliest coins of which we know anything were struck in Lydia, Asia Minor; but they were practically mere balls of silver with certain rude punch-marks on them. The first coins having any intelligent design were those struck on the Island of Aegina; and the earliest of these dates back to about 700 B. C. Tradition ascribes the making of these coins to Pheidon, King of Argos. On the obverse there is a tortoise, which was the symbol of Aphrodite, the divinity who was the protector of trade as well as the goddess of the sea. Aphrodite is the same as the Phoenician Astarte, who again is the same as



ANCIENT SILVER COINS.

1, Stater of Aegina, after B. C. 404. 2, Antandrus, Troas, B. C. 420-400. 3, Tetrabol of Cromna, End of 3rd Century B. C. 4, Triobol of Arcadia, Argolis, B. C. 480-417. 5, Stater of Phaestus, Creta, B. C. 430-300. 6, Acanthus, Macedonia, B. C. 500-424. 7, Stater of Sicyon, B. C. 400-300. 8, Macedonia, After B. C. 146. 9, Electrum Hektedrachm of Lesbos, B. C. 480-440.

the Ashtoreth of the Old Testament. To set forth the progress of art directly to the eye, let the turtle of the Aegina coin again be compared with the head of Pallas on the coin of Velia, minted some time after 400 B. C. The comparison calls for no comment.

In thinking of the progress of art as shown by consecutive centuries of coinage in Greece and in Magna Graecia, we might naturally suppose that Athens would lead the way. This, however, is not the case. The coinage of Athens, which began as early as 590 B. C., shows very little improvement. The reason for this is that Athenian coins circulated over a vast area, and it seemed important so closely to preserve the type that the coins should not be refused even by those dwelling on the mainland of Asia Minor. Practically, therefore, the head of Pallas Athenae on the obverse and the owl with the olive branch on the reverse, as shown in the illustration, remain the type for Athens from the beginning to the end of her numismatic history. The same is true in some measure with Corinth, and for the same reason. At the same time, here we do notice a decided advance in the treatment of the Pegasos which decorates the coin. The earlier of these coins repsenting the winged Pegasos, dates back to the fifth century B. C., while the later is approximately in the second half of the fourth century. The progress in the treatment of the Pegasos is at once apparent.

Syracusan coinage shows this progress in art perhaps as clearly as that of any other city either in Greece or Magna Graecia. Their coins were minted in Syracuse probably in the times of the Geomori, and must be dated back to some time shortly before 500 B. C. The crude and archaic character of the work on these coins is instantly apparent to the eye. Compare this with the noted decadrachm of Syracuse, struck in the time of Dionysius and successors, and the difference will be seen to be vast. Unfortunately for collectors, there are clever counterfeits of this coin, by Becker, of Berlin. It was his custom to take the finest specimens of the rarest ancient coins and counterfeit them with dangerous accuracy. In order to produce the proper abrasion on these counterfeits, thus making them look more genuine, Becker is said to have had a tin box attached to the axle of his carriage, and as he drove around the streets of Berlin these coins, through constant attrition, gained the exact amount of abrasion which he considered requisite. Though Becker has gone to his reward (whatever that may be), a new and dangerous counterfeiter has arisen in Italy, Santa Maria by name. The writer bought two Alexander staters (gold) last year, of exceptional beauty. On taking them to the British Museum last summer, there to be passed on by their expert, both were pronounced by him to be clever counterfeits.

In this connection it might not be amiss to add that the gentle art of counterfeiting has been carried to great lengths in the East. On the Nile there is a factory for ancient scarabs, where the most approved specimens are turned out by the score. In order to secure the beautiful blue-green tints of the genuine scarab, they are forced down the throats of geese. When they have passed through the alimentary canal, the colors are as perfect as the most critical artist could desire. In Greece this art has reached its highest perfection. There, I am told, beautiful counterfeits of old vases are made. They are then sold to farmers, who bury them in the proper places, near the remains of ancient temples or other sites. When the guides (who are part of the precious scheme) come along with their parties of tourists, the guileless peasant is seen digging in his field. At the psychological moment he unearths the vase, and runs with it to the guide. He in turn

gives the newly discovered "antiques" to the unwary tourist, telling him that here is a rare chance to secure a treasure, before the government officials are aware of the "find." The result may easily be imagined, as well as the subsequent "dividing of the spoil."

The devices used in ancient coinage were first purely religious, the idea being to put the imprimatur of the divinity worshiped in the town that issued the coin on the same, as a guarantee of good faith. Sometimes these devices were like that of Aegina, merely an animal; sometimes, as in the case of the Arsinoe octodracm, the cornucopia, this being the symbol of Ceres, the goddess of plenty. Often heads of divinities, idealized, appeared. It was not until after the death of Alexander the Great and after his deification that genuine human portraits were struck, and these at first only because of the deification of the individual portrayed. On all coins even down to later Roman times there was some form of recognition of the city or the nation issuing the coin.

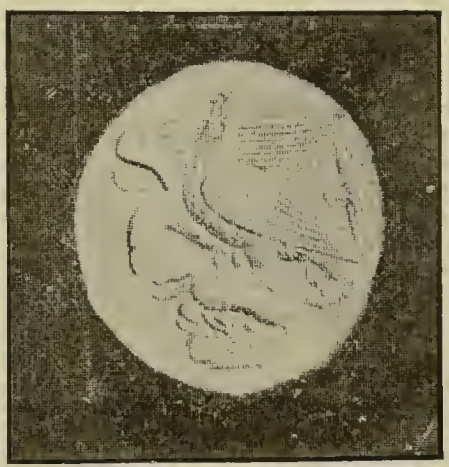
The coinage of Asia in those earliest periods shows an exceedingly rude and archaic conception and execution on the part of that portion of the world. After Alexander the Great crossed to Asia, he swept with him Grecian art, and the coins of Asia after his day show marked progress, viewed from the artistic standpoint.

The influence of Greek art was felt in Egypt as well as in Asia Minor, and cut No. 4, setting forth a gold octodrachm of Queen Arsinoe, illustrates this. The date of this is about the beginning of the third century B C. Egyptian stiffness and formality, however, are apparent in the features of the queen. When this head is compared with that of Philistis of Syracuse, the difference will immediately be apparent.

Tetradrachm of Athens, B. C. 527-430. Head of Apollo on obverse.

Greek coins in due time found their way into western Gaul, and there were copied by the Gallican artists. Some coins represent a Grecian horse as conceived by the artists of Greece, while others set forth a Gallic copy of the same horse. To see the copy "is to laugh." How well it sets forth the fact that before we try to do anything we must have a **clarified vision**, so that we may see exactly what we should reproduce.

The coins of Demetrius Poliorketes of Macedonia, were minted 306 to 283 B. C., in commemoration of a great naval victory won by him over Ptolemy of Egypt near Cyprus in 306 B. C. The same victory is commemorated by a monument discovered some years ago in Samothrace, which is now in the Louvre in Paris, and is the only one of its kind. On the obverse, Victory stands on the prow of the ship blowing the trumpet.



Decadrachm of Akragos, B. C. 406.

It is ten thousand pities that the progress of art as shown in the matter of coinage should not have continued. But, as a matter of fact, degeneracy set in soon after the beginning of the Christian era.

In view of the animated discussion as to the merits of the Saint-Gaudens eagles on our ten and twenty dollar gold pieces, we reproduce one of the celebrated decadrachms of Akragas (modern Girgenti) in Sicily. In the judgment of some noted students of numismatics, this is the finest coin, from the artistic standpoint, ever mitned. Mr. T. L. Comparette, Curator of the numismatic colection in the United States Mint in Philadelphia, expresses his opinion as follows to the writer: "I often felt inclined to write to the President and suggest the propriety (or the possibility) of employing the two-eagle design for the double-eagle coin; wherein I had in mind virtual reproduction of the Akragas eagles. I fully agree with you concerning the splendid character of that design. To my opinion it has never been excelled. Winckelmann regards the Syracuse coins the very acme of human achievement in the die-sinker's art, and therein perhaps he was correct . . . but my personal tastes prefer the Akragas coin." Compare the eagle on this coin with that on the American double eagles; the result, we are free to believe, would be decidedly in favor of the work of the Girgenti produced in the fifth century B. C., as compared with that of 1907 A. D.

Dominion of Canada Four-Dollar Bills

By S. S. HEAL.

Considerable interest has been shown of late in the four dollar bills issued by the Dominion of Canada in the years 1900 and 1902.

Reports as to the great rarity of the bill with engraving of the locks of the United States canal at the Soo having aroused my interest, I determined to write to Ottawa and find out whether there was any truth in the mistake about the locks alleged to have been made.

Recently I received two of these bills in one day, and on comparing them I found a difference. I wrote to Ottawa, and in reply received the following letter, which explains itself and clears up the mystery:

Finance Department,
Ottawa, Canada, October 15th, 1908.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter received this morning, respecting four-dollar bills issued by the Dominion of Canada and the differences in the engraving, and your query in regard thereto, I beg to say that the locks shown on the series AA, July 2nd, 1900, are the locks of the United States at the Soo.

On inquiry, I learn that when the note was engraved the locks shown were thought to be the Canadian locks, and when it was discovered later that the American locks were shown, a change was made in the engraving and the reproduction of a photo of the Canadian locks was substituted.

On the second engraving the steamer "United Empire" is in the lock.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY T. ROSS,
Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance.

S. S. Heal, Esq., Local Secretary
American Numismatic Association,
22 Larch Street, Toronto.

Neither of these Bills are Rare. They are worth two hundred cents each; no more and no less.

The New Half and Quarter Eagles

Our New York correspondent informs us that the new $2.50 and $5 gold pieces have made their appearance in that city. Every unkind thing, save one, that was said about the St. Gaudens coins when the first $20 pieces were issued last fall, were said about the new $2.50 and $5 pieces issued from the New York subtreasury. The fault found with the early coins, that they would not stack readily, is not found this time.

The new coins have been declared inartistic and lacking in everything but intrinsic value and purchasing power. And that they look less like real money than anything since the tokens current during the civil war.

In the new coins the eagle on the reverse side is crowded between the "E Pluribus Unum" on one side and "In God We Trust" on the other, and with the usual inscription above and below, is cramped for room. The whole effect of this side is essentially Egyptian.

In the first consignment there was but $15,000 in all, and but one of each denomination was allowed each of the many who called for them. That there will be plenty of them later and that there will be no reason for their going at a premium is the message sent out from the department at Washington.

Acknowledged With Thanks.

Clippings from J. de Lagerberg, David S. English, Geo. E. Lovish, Geo. M. Hinkley, Howard Newcomb, and A. H. Johnson.

We are constantly receiving requests from subscribers for back numbers of the Monthly. We wish to say that our supply of back numbers is very limited, and for some issues we were obliged to pay 10 cents per copy. We can not, therefore, be expected to supply back numbers gratis. Of the limited number of copies we have on hand, we shall be pleased to supply our subscribers at the lowest possible prices.

We certainly intend to start the New Year right. And we shall usher in our first number of volume II with two excellent articles, both prepared by authorities in their respective lines. "The Irish Gun Money of James II," written for the Monthly by Mr. Frank G. Duffield, and a most interesting and instructive article on British Tradesmen Tokens, by Mr. S. H. Hamer. These will be beautifully illustrated. And, of course, there will be the usual number of good smaller articles.

B. Max Mehl, the Texas dealer, held a most successful auction sale of coins on November 11th. The good prices always obtained for good coins at Mehl's sales prevailed this time. There were one hundred and forty-eight successful bidders at this sale. Mehl's next sale is scheduled to take place in the early part of 1909. Those desiring to dispose of their collection, or any part of same, will be furnished with terms, etc., by addressing B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

Our first "Special Number" for 1909 promises to be an unusually elegant number. Each of the "specials" will be devoted to the coinage of a certain country, from its earliest period to the present time. In short, it will be a complete numismatic history of the country so treated. Not only the coins alone will be exhaustively treated, but everything pertaining to numismatics in that country will be fully described and profusely illustrated. We hope to be able to issue our first special in the early part of 1909, and we honestly believe, from data we have on hand, that each of our special numbers will be well worth double the price of a year's subscription.

A Letter from Uncle George to His Nephew John

My Dear John:

Now that the elections are over and the great questions settled for better or worse, we can again return to our hobby and give our undivided attention to our wants.

You will have seen in the Monthly and the Numismatist such full accounts of the Philadelphia convention that I need not undertake to say much about it, except in a general way. It was a week of banquets, theatre parties, ball games, dinners and excursions, and what little time we could spare from the festivities we devoted to convention and A. N. A. work. We held only three short business sessions, and one of these was almost entirely taken up with the reading of papers; these were interesting enough, but it left so little time for other things that important business was neglected.

The most important thing done was to make the annual dues $1.50 a year, drop the initiation fee and the A. N. A. to get 25 cents on every subscription.

I think the A. N. A. is stronger than ever; in fact, I know it is; 1908 has been a great year for us. It rests with us to make 1909 the greatest yet. No collector who takes a real interest in his hobby will grudge the extra half a dollar, and it will allow of improvements being made in the "Numismatist" that will greatly increase its value to all.

Montreal was decided upon as convention city for 1909. Doubtless the Canadian city will live up to its reputation and commemorate the event by the issue of a suitable token. In these numismatic treasures Montreal runs Chicago hard.

I had some conversation with a cataloguer at the convention. His chief complaint was of the habit some collectors have of returning coins secured and sent them at their own bids. No collector should bid on a coin unless he has some idea of its value. There are two classes of collectors given to this habit: one, the novice, does it through pure ignorance; the other does it deliberately, with mean intent. The novice should remember that buying coins at auction is a very different thing from selecting from a consingnment sent by a dealer on approval. He has no right to return a coin because its design or workmanship does not please him. If condition is fairly described, he should keep it. It is not fair play to return it to the cataloguer.

The collector ignorant of values, should study them; and the best possible way he can do so is by subscribing to priced catalogues. He can then see how far short of price realized his bid was, and next time the desired piece is offered, he will be able to make an intelligent bid.

There is another class—the small peanut collector and speculator—who, if he cannot sell it immediately at a profit, returns it to the cataloguer, with the old excuse, "not as described."

This man is worse than ignorant: he is dishonest. His name should be cut off from all mailing lists. The cataloguer who, offering a Canadian boquet sou, describes it as Courteau, No. 7—Rarity 4, is strictly within his rights. The novice who sends a high bid on it under the impression that it is equal in rarity to a sou rated R. 4, by Breton, may feel sore if, when getting it he finds it is only Breton 714—Rarity 1; but it is his own fault for bidding on a coin practically unknown to him. The best interests of collectors and dealers are alike. Fair play should be given to each. If this is done, both will be satisfied.

UNCLE GEORGE.

Notes on the First Issue of Our New Gold Coins

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY by DR. S. E. YOUNG.

It may not be generally known among numismatists that of the first model of the St. Gaudens twenty-dollar gold piece of 1907 there were only 13 pieces struck and 10 of them later melted up, yet such is the case.

Of the second model of the twenty-dollar, with Roman date, there were 12,153 pieces struck, about 8,000 of which were what is described as wire-edge, and the remainder 4,153 pieces, smooth edge. All these pieces are either in the hands of collectors, speculators or others, and of course the price will never be any higher than it is now or has been.

Of the 1907 eagles, or ten-dollar issue, there were 542 pieces struck, all of the wire edge or no rim model. This is called model number one. These pieces are all in existence.

Model number two of the ten dollars seems to be unknown among collectors. There were 31,500 pieces struck of this model, which is the "slight rim" model. Later there were 31,450 of these pieces melted up, leaving only fifty pieces in existence.

Model number three, 1907, ten-dollar, is the heavy rim model, and is in circulation and needs no description here. These figures are the ones given by the Director of the Mint, and are correct, and upon them the prices of the 1907 St. Gaudens gold coins must be based.

Russian Roubles

By GEO. W. TRACY, in the Bulletin of the Chicago Numismatic Society.

(Continued from page 114.)

At this time (1689) Peter was only seventeen years of age. His education had been greatly neglected but he was eager and quick to learn and from the foreigners in his service, especially Lefort, he acquired much information concerning other European governments, their military and naval powers, their civilization, commerce, etc. Peter's great desire now was to create and possess a navy; but Russia at this time had no sea coast, except on the White Sea and the Arctic Ocean, with only one port, Archangel. The Baltic was held by Sweden and Poland and the Black Sea by Turkey. Peter's first step was to instruct his army according to European tactics, in which he was ably assisted by both Gordon and Lefort. In 1693 he made a journey to Archangel and "gazed on that sea which no Tsar had ever looked on"; there he established a dock-yard in which was constructed the first Russian ship to carry the Russian flag to European ports. But Archangel, ice-bound during a large part of the year,

could never serve as a port for the fleet which Peter proposed to build, and he turned his attention elsewhere. In 1695 war was declared against Turkey, and Azov, at the mouth of the Don, was invested, but the Russians were unsuccessful and were compelled to raise the siege. A second campaign met with better results, and in 1796 Azov fell into Peter's hands. The army entered Moscow under triumphal arches, Lefort and Schein, the commander in chief, riding on splendid sledges while Peter, who was determined to set his people an example by rising through all the grades of the service, and who had now attained the rank of captain, followed on foot.

In February, 1697, a conspiracy, sanctioned if not instigated, by the Princess Sophia, which had for its object the dethronement and assassination of Peter, was betrayed and the conspirators fearfully punished. The following month (March, 1697) Peter having entrusted the government to several of the great nobles and distributed the streltzi to outlying points, distant from Moscow, commenced his long desired journey to western Europe. A great embassy, consisting of nearly three hundred persons, headed by Lefort, and accompanied by Peter, in a minor capacity under the name of Peter Hichaelof, was fitted out and despatched. The embassy visited Riga, then in Sweden, was cordially received at Koenigsberg by the Elector of Brandenburg, and, after visiting several other German cities, reached Holland, Peter's main objective. In the last named country Peter gave his particular attention to ships and ship building, working for some time as a mechanic in the ship yards of the Dutch East India Company, at Saardam near Amsterdam. From Holland he crossed to England, where William III, the reigning monarch, received him with much honor, treated him with the greatest courtesy, presented him a magnificent royal yacht, and permitted him to enlist in his service and take with him some five hundred English and Scotch artists and mechanics. From England Peter journeyed to Vienna. It was his intention to visit Venice and Rome, but at Vienna word was brought from Russia that the streltzi had revolted, and he immediately set out for Moscow, where he arrived September, 1698. The insurrection was quickly suppressed—in fact, the rebels had already been defeated before Peter's arrival—and the offenders punished with the utmost severity.

Peter now began his remarkable reforms. Space does not permit us to give a detailed description of these, and for an account of them we refer our readers to a history of Russia. Eudoxia, Peter's wife, who was from an old conservative family, opposed the innovations introduced by the Czar, and was therefore divorced and banished to a convent, where she was compelled to take the veil. In 1728 she was permitted to return to Moscow, and died there September, 1731.

Russia's possession of Azov was confirmed by treaty with Turkey July 3, 1700, and a port on the southern sea was thus secured; but the Czar realized that the more important outlet must always be by way of the Baltic, and the provinces bordering on that sea-Karelia (the southern part of Finland) Ingria, Esthonia and Livonia—were then Swedish territory. In order to take these provinces from Sweden, Peter joined Denmark and Poland in a war against that country. In the battle of Narva, November 20, 1700, the Russians, although they outnumbered their opponents nearly five to one, were completely defeated. After this battle Charles XII, the Swedish King, turned his attention to Poland, which enabled Peter to remain in Ingria, and in 1703 he laid the foundations of St. Petersburg in that province.

As the war progressed, the Russians gained ground continually, and their troops became each day more

efficient, so that after an engagement fought near the village of Errestfer, in Livonia, December, 1701, Peter wrote "Glory be to God! we have reached so far that we can conquer the Swedes fighting two to one, but soon we shall be able to beat also with even numbers." As a result of one of the battles during this period of the war, the town of Marienburg, situated on the confines of Livonia and Ingria, was compelled to surrender to the Russians. Among the prisoners taken was a young servant girl named Martha Skavronski, who was destined to become, as Catherine I, Empress of all the Russias.

In 1706 trouble commenced with the Cossacks, and in 1708 Ivan Mazeppa—the same Mazeppa who is made famous by Lord Byron's poem—chief or Hetman of the Little Russian Cossacks on the Ukraine, revolted, and with some of his men joined the Swedish king, who was then invading the southern part of Russia. July 8, 1709, the hostile armies met at Poltava. The battle resulted in a decisive victory for Peter, the Swedish army was crushed and Charles compelled to seek refuge in Turkey. The Czar now seized Livonia and Karelia, which, with what he already held, gave him possession of the entire eastern shore of the Baltic.

Charles induced Turkey to take up arms against Peter December 1, 1710. At the battle of the Pruth, July 19 and 20, 1711, the Russians were outnumbered and surrounded, and Peter was forced to sign the treaty of Hush, July 23, by which he agreed to restore Azov to Turkey. In 1713 Finland was invaded, and August 7, 1714, the Russian fleet gained a great victory over the Swedish in a battle off the Aland Islands at the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia. The war was finally terminated by the treaty of Nyastad, September 10, 1721. Sweden ceded Esthonia, Livonia, Ingria and Karelia. The Senate, constituted by Peter in 1711, to take the place of the ancient council of nobles or boyars, decreed the imperial title to Peter and on November 2, 1721, he was proclaimed Emperor in St. Petersburg. Our readers will remember that on the roubles dated after 1721 the new title is added to the older one.

In 1722 Peter led an army of one hundred thousand men in an expedition against Persia and occupied Derbent, on the Caspian Sea. By the treaty of September 12, 1723, Persia ceded Derbent, Baku, Gilan, Mazenderan and Astrabad, but some of these were later lost again. Peter died January 28, 1725, in his fifty-third year. By his first wife he had one son, the unfortunate Alexis, who was tried for treason and condemned to death, and who was either executed or died from the effects of torture June 27, 1718. By Catherine, whom he publicly married in 1712, although he had privately married her some years before, had two sons, Peter and Paul, who both died when children, and two daughters, Anna, married to the Duke of Holstein, and Elizabeth, who later became Empress. Catherine had been solemnly crowned empress in May, 1724, and upon Peter's death she succeeded him as Catherine I.

One of the prettiest of collectors' cards that has come to our notice has just been issued by Mr. W. C. Moore, of Ohio. The obverse bears the American buffalo, and the date, 1908. On the reverse, the name, numbers of A. N. A. membership and town and State. The copy Mr. Moore favored us with is of copper, size 30.

For every ton of gold in circulation there are fifteen tons of silver.

When you receive a notice from us that your subscription has expired, please renew promptly, as we shall discontinue all subscriptions on expiration. Remittance may be made in any way most convenient.

Denford Numismatic Society

It was the regular meeting night of the Numismatic Society of Denford, and the faithful were gathering together in their room over the Fifth National Bank. The president coming in had found the secretary, Frank Howard, and a couple of old-time collectors engaged in an eager discussion. Howard, looking around as the president entered, exclaimed: "Here's the man who should be able to settle the question for us."

"Well, boys," said Jennings, "if you're going to make me umpire and judge of every question that worries you, I shall have my hands full; but what's the trouble this time?"

"Nothing much," said Hill, the oldest collector in the club, "but I was telling Howard about a coin I had got since the last meeting, a St. Patricks or Royal Harpist half-penny. In speaking of it I said it would be an addition to my Irish series, but Blake says it should be considered an American Colonial; and we have been discussing it ever since. I stick to my opinion, and Blake sticks to his, and the question is: which is right?"

THE ST. PATRICK'S or ROYAL HARPIST HALF-PENNY.

Obverse: FLOREAT . REX . (May the King Flourish) King David kneeling, playing on a harp, a crown over.

Reverse: ECCE . GREX . (Behold the Flock), St. Patrick standing with a crozier in his left hand and a trefoil in his right, which he holds extended over people standing before him; at his left side a shield bearing the arms of Dublin, six castles.

The crown over the harp is of a different metal from that of the coin, being brass upon copper.

"That's all, is it?" said Jennings. "Well, it's a question that can be kept open for a considerable time; it's hard to settle. Both series have a right to it, but have you the coin here?"

"Sure," said Hill; "here it is, and a pretty nice coin, too."

"You're right," said Jennings, "it's certainly a fine one; unusually well preserved and a scarce variety, the one with a star between FLOREAT REX. I have three varieties in my own collection: one like this, another with the crown dividing FLORE AT, while the letters of the legend are larger on the third than on the other two. This is the largest of the two pieces, which are generally known as half-penny and farthing, but some cataloguers call them penny and half-penny. Crosby and Scott place these among our Colonials, and Simon, Lindsay and Dr. Aquilla Smith place them as Irish. For myself, I place them with the Irish."

"But," said Blake, "you do not deny that they circulated in New Jersey."

"By no means," said Jennings; "it is known that Mark Newby brought a great number of these tokens with him to America in 1681, and by an act passed in 1682, they were made to pass current in that colony. They are American Colonials, but before they became such they were Irish tokens.

"These tokens were struck in Dublin. Lindsay and Simon assign them to Charles I, but Dr. Smith was of opinion that they were struck under Charles

II, some time between 1660 and 1685. Put them in the series you are mostly interested in. Hill can put his among his Irish, while Blake can put his among the Colonials. They both have them and they are both right."

"Speaking about Irish coins," said Howard, "I recently secured a Limerick half-penny of James I. It was a nice one, but what pleased me was it had a perfect N in Hibernia. I have ten varieties of this piece, but this is the first variety with a perfect N I have ever seen. Have any of you one like this?"

"Never knew there was such a variety," said Hill; "but I'll be on the look-out for it now. Have you one, Blake?"

"No," said Blake, "I have only one Limerick, and it's struck over a gun money shilling that shows so strongly I hardly know which coin to call it."

"But we must settle down to business," said Jennings, "fascinating though the Irish series is."

The Coinage of the Ill-Fated Emperor, Maximillian

The sale recently for $27 each of two specimens of the gold 20 pesos pieces coined for the unfortunate Emperor Maximillian of Mexico and dated 1866, brings attention to an interesting series of coins which made their appearance in the brief period of the attempt to establish a European monarch upon the throne of the Montezumas.

Of course, one of the first acts of Maximillian upon his accession to the throne was the striking of coins bearing his portrait and title. The silver coins were of five, ten and fifty centavos and one peso.

The copper coinage of Maximillian consisted of but a single denomination, the one centavo piece. The story was generally circulated at one time that only 90 pieces of the 20 pesos denomination were originally struck. This statement has not been confirmed, but it is a fact that the coin is scarce.

The first issues of Maximillian attracted notice because of the statement that the engravers of the pieces which show the emperor's bust have executed the design in such a manner that by reversing the coin a likeness of a donkey was produced. It requires a great deal of imagination, it may be said, to work out such a resemblance.

There has been an impression that all the coins of Maximillian are scarce, but this is not so. Great numbers of them were struck, and as the Mexican dollar has for many years been a favorite form of currency in the Orient, millions of such pieces found their way to the Eastern countries during the reign of Maximillian. The idea that one peso piece was held at a high premium may be accounted for by the rumor in general circulation about 1868 that the Austrian government was buying up all the Maximilian dollars at $5 each.

There is said to be one extremely rare variety of the one peso which was struck at the Mexico City mint in 1866. According to one theory, the first dies broke after 35 pieces had been coined and this number represented the age of Maximilian when he was shot. It is said also that one ball pierced his forehead at the exact spot where a flaw appears in the die.

As a matter of fact, says an expert numismatist, a die did go to pieces after a few coins had been struck, and the subsequent dies were of far inferior workmanship. The coins of the first set are identified by the letters on the inscription of the obverse, which are shorter than those on the usual issues, and there is a depression in the temple of the emperôr's portrait.

STANDARD MONETARY UNIT.

Kup Ring Tael Is Made the Basis of Exchange.

Pekin, Tuesday, Nov. 3.—The appeal by the grand councils to the viceroys and governors for advice on the subject of a standard monetary unit and coin for the empire has resulted in the adoption by edict of the kup ring tael, value about 70 cents gold, as the standard of money unit, and a coin of the value of a half tael to be the coin of general circulation. The edict goes over the difficulties of changing the money of China from a system of weight to a coin system, the former being relied on by officials and bankers to enable them to squeeze from some source a large part of their revenues.

There are numerous people in all sections of the country who are more or less infected with "Numismatitis" and need only a little urging to join the ranks of the real numismatists. A numismatic journal will do more toward infecting the hobby of coin collecting and in stimulating interest in our science than almost anything else. A number of our subscribers occasionally furnish us with the names of probable coin collectors in their community, to whom we send copies of this journal, and, within time, we hope to create much good material in the ranks of our coin collectors. We shall be glad to either send extra copies to subscribers for distribution among their friends, or forward copies direct from this office to names furnished us by our subscribers.

MEHL'S NOVEMBER SALE.

On Nov. 11th, B. Max Mehl sold at auction the collection of silver coins of Mr. Homer J. Hendricks, together with other consignments.

The following are some of the prices realized at above sale:

1796 and 1797 dollars. V. G. Each		$ 4.00
1801	Dollar, fine	3.25
1803	Dollar, fine	4.00
1836	Dollar, flying eagle, plain edge. V. G.	12.65
1844	Dollar, proof	10.50
1854	Dollar, fine	5.00
1858	Dollar, proof	28.50
1904	Proof set, complete	51.00
1794	Half Dollar, good	5.00
1815	Half Dollar, very fine	5.75
1836	Half Dollar, milled edge, very fine	3.00
1877	Twenty Cents	2.50
1878	Twenty Cents	2.40
1873	Three-Cent Piece, silver	2.10
1793	Cent, Chain, very G.	5.10
1860	$10. Pike's Peak, V. G.	41.00
1795	U. S. $10.00. Fine	26.00
1795	U. S. Half Eagle, wide date	19.40
1849	$5.00 Calif. (N. G. & N.) V. F.	45.00
1860	$5.00 Colorado. Clark & Co.	14.50
1879	$4.00 gold piece. Proof	75.00

The ancient silver coins, the Confederate currency and the other cheaper items, all sold well.

Those intending to dispose of their collection or any part of same may write for terms, dates of sales, etc. Prompt atention accorded all favors. Address, B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

Subscribe for Mehl's Numismatic Monthly. 50 cents per annum.

THE CHICAGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The fifty-eighth monthly meeting of the above named society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, November 6th, President Virgil M. Brand presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Baker, Loer, Ripstra, Lewis, Kelly, Jerrems, Green, Verkler, McDonald, V. M. Brand, Simpson, Excell, Leon, and Doctors Merrill and Bert.

Messrs. Oliver Leon and A. T. McKay were present as visitors. Messrs. Albert Roehling, A. T. McKay and H. S. Rosenberg were elected to membership.

Under exhibits Mr. Leon showed a copper patern of the $5 piece of the Massachusetts and California Company, and Mr. Brand a gold 6-ducat piece of Berne, a 100 crown piece of Austria and 50 stivers of Holland in bronze, silver and gold from the dies of the silver piece.

Magazines received were the Philatelic West, Spink's Numismatic Circular, Numismatischer Verkehr and Mehl's Monthly for October. Auction calalogues were received from Elder, Green, Dr. Hirsch (3), Low and St. Louis Stamp & Coin Company. A priced catalogue was received from Green.

Adjourned to meet December 4th, 1908.

BEN' G. GREEN, Secretary.

A CORRECTION.

Hard as we might try to issue a typographically faultless magazine, minor errors generally slip by the eagle eye of the proof reader. But our greatest offense in that line occurred in our last number, in Mr. Geis' article on "Money —Past and Present." We wish to call attention to the following corrections:

Page 184, line 9—convulsion, not conclusion.

Page 185, line 13—billon, not billion.

Page 185, line 4—1853 should read 1858.

Page 185, line 9—regnal, not regal.

The forms also seem to have been inadvertently reversed. By tearing out page 184 and facing it to page 182, the article will be properly followed

A complete index of the first volue of the Monthly is now in preparation, and will be sent to all subscribers with the January number.

An interesting work on an interesting subject is Dr. Courteau's book, recently issued, on The Canadian Bouquet Sous. Without doubt the Bouquet Sous represent a very interesting series in the coinage of the North American Continent. And Dr. Courteau minutely describes each known variety of these pieces and gives their history as well as half-tone illustrations of all the coins described, making it, in all, a valuable numismatic work, one which should be appreciated by every intelligent numismatist.

Of Interest to Numismatists!

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RATE—1c per word for WANT and EXCHANGE ads, and 2c per word for all FOR SALE ads. We require cash in advance for all Trade Column advertising. No ads accepted for less than 25c. Three insertions for the price of two.

If you have anything to sell or want to buy anything, try an ad in this column for satisfactory results.

WANTED—Copies of the September Monthly. 10 cents per copy paid for clean copies. Address B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Tex.

FOR SALE—16 old half dollars, all in good condition. Few other minor coins fair to good. Address Flippen Vick, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 3 (Dec.)

FREE—Rare coin over 100 years old. Send 6c for mailing. Louis Bohn, Jr., 702 Duff St., Pittsburg, Pa. 3 (Dec.)

WANTED—For cash, $1.00 and $2.00 U. S. Greenbacks, uncirculated, from 1862 to 1890. Also Broken Bank Notes. R. L. Deitrick, Lorraine, Va. 6 (Apr.)

100 all different foreign stamps for eight cents. E. H. Morrison, Alvin, Texas.

FOR SALE CHEAP.

TWO RARE GOLD COINS

1860 MORMON $5.00 Gold Piece.

Eagle and bee-hive, and Lion. The very rare variety. Very good, but solder mark on reverse. The rarest of the Mormon $5.00 pieces, with a record of way over $50.00.

Price $27.50.

1849 CALIFORNIA GOLD.

N. G. & N. (Norris, Griggs & Norris). "Pure Gold, No Alloy." Very good and very rare.

Price, $26.00.

One, a very fine one, just sold at my last sale for $45.00.

The above two coins for only $50.00.

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